



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 24/04/2026

Dear PPN Member,

Welcome to our E-Bulletin!

Our E-Bulletin is designed to keep you up to date with Cork County Public Participation News and to keep you connected to other communities, events, training, and information.

Whilst Cork County Public Participation Network has **almost** 800 member groups, it has the potential to reach so many more - so forward this email to your committee members and volunteers!

I hope you find this helpful. Get in touch if there is anything you would like to include in future editions, we may even make you our next Group of the Week!

Watch a short video animation about Cork County PPN - Click the following [link](#).

Check Out our Website [Link](#)

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – [Cork County PPN](#)

Instagram – [@corkcountypn](#)

Happy Friday,

Morrin & Noelle



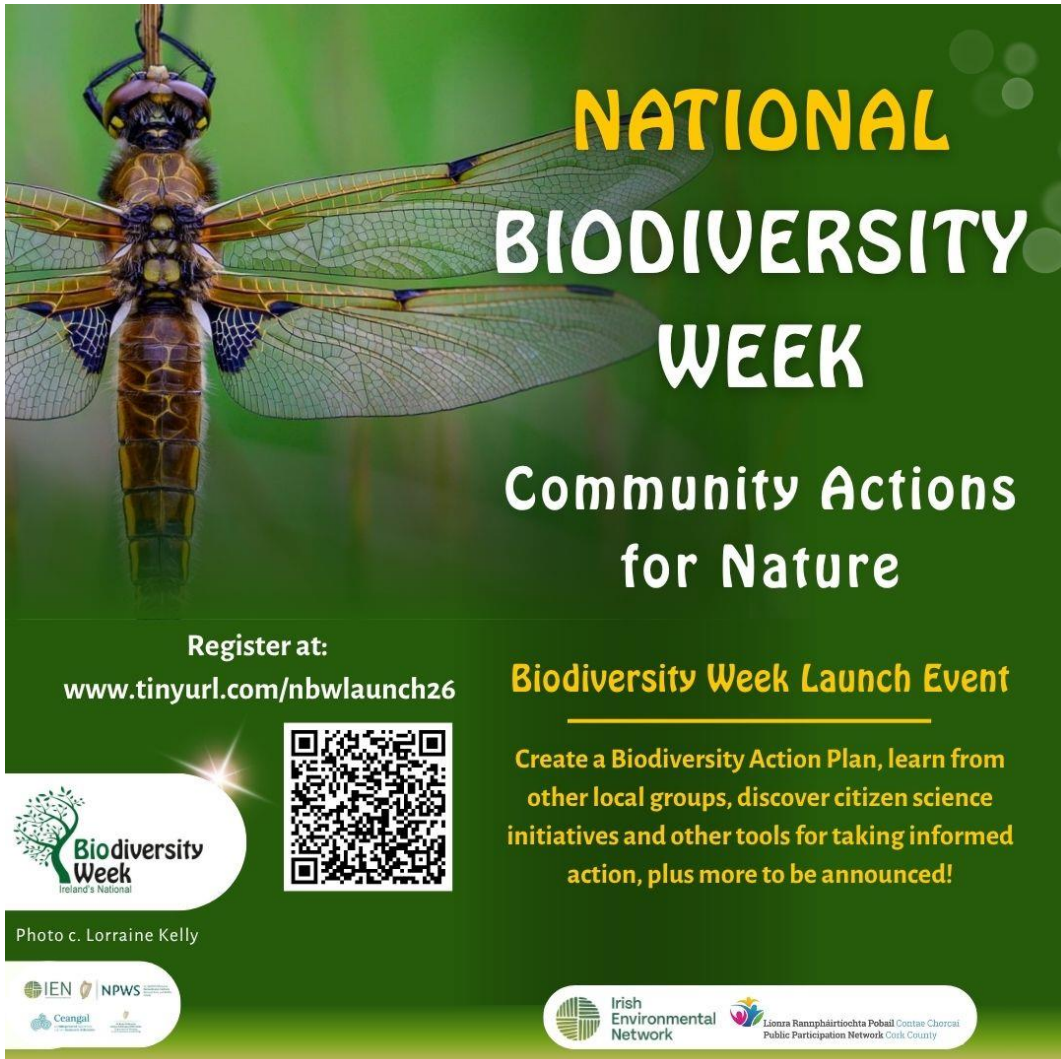
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Public Participation Network Cork County


News & Events:



**NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY
WEEK**

**Community Actions
for Nature**






Register at:
www.tinyurl.com/nbwlaunch26



Biodiversity Week Launch Event

Create a Biodiversity Action Plan, learn from other local groups, discover citizen science initiatives and other tools for taking informed action, plus more to be announced!

Photo c. Lorraine Kelly



How do we find balance within our eco-system? Learn how to take action for nature in your community at our Biodiversity Week launch!

Cork County PPN are delighted to host the Irish Environmental Network to launch Biodiversity Week.

Where: [Little Island Sport Complex, Little Island, Cork](#) (Well served by public transport!)

When: Sunday, May 10 10 AM - 4 PM



Public Participation Network Cork County

Why attend this event?

Join us to learn how to take action for nature in your community. Humans have the power to shape their landscape for better or worse, creating or destroying habitats that support the wildlife around us and support our own survival.

Through local collective action we can make a huge difference to our eco-system that we rely on for clean air, fresh water, high quality food, and our physical and mental health. How can we live side by side with our wild neighbours so that we can all thrive? Find out at our launch event for National Biodiversity Week!

What will the day include?

Learn how to create a plan of action and explore ideas for your own community with a workshop on creating a Biodiversity Action Plan led by ecologist Karen Loxton.

Hear from a local group, Green Skibbereen, who has the experience of creating their own plan. They will showcase their own actions and ideas that can be applied to other areas. In addition we will hear of their work as the Irish partners for the Forestcarbovision project.

Discover how to identify and catalogue the wildlife in your area through Citizen Science initiatives. We are joined by Rachel Hayden of the National Biodiversity Data Centre who will show us how to record wildlife and help us in the field later in the day.

Lunch and refreshments included.

Who is this event for?

Whether you are a seasoned wildlife enthusiast or are a completely new explorer, everyone is welcome! The day will teach you how to take action within your community, so anyone involved in a local group of any kind or who wants to get involved in something locally are encouraged to join us for the day.

Further information:

National Biodiversity Week takes place this May, Friday 15th - Sunday 24th with free events around the country. Find out more here: www.biodiversityweek.ie

Register here: [Community Actions for Nature Tickets, Sunday, May 10 • 10 AM - 4 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Public Participation Network **Cork County**

Pop Up Volunteer Centres



POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE MAGROOM LIBRARY

29TH APRIL
WEDNESDAY
10:30-12:30



A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO:-

- Speak 1:1 with Cork Volunteer Centre staff
- Find out more about the services Cork Volunteer Centre provides to volunteers and non-profit organisations
- Register as a volunteer and apply for volunteer opportunities
- Advice on recruiting and managing volunteers for community groups



Any questions? Contact: gosaia@volunteercork.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County

Transition Town Kinsale – A Thriving Future

A THRIVING FUTURE

Saturday, May 23rd
9.30am at Kinsale Campus

**A MINI FESTIVAL WITH WORLD
RENOWNED SPEAKERS
IN OUR MARQUEE
+ workshops, food, a market,
evening music & craic**

MARY REYNOLDS - We Are The Ark
- Global Rewilding Activist

ROB HOPKINS - Founder Of The Global Transition
(Sustainability) Movement

THOMAS O'CONNOR - Inspirational Regenerative
Farmer And Community Activist

LISA FINGLETON - Art & Activism
- What If We Were Brilliant?

DONAL CHAMBERS - Want Free Renewable Energy?
MARIA YOUNG - More Community Gardens Please!

Workshops in
fermentation,
renewable energy,
forest schools, zero
waste cosmetics &
cob building

Come celebrate 21 years of practical
sustainability with Transition Town
Kinsale - the birthplace of the global
transition movement. 9.30 till 5pm.

Tickets on EventBrite
info@transitiontownkinsale.org



Public Participation Network **Cork County**



Are you based in Cork or Kerry and looking to give back at a strategic level? **South Munster Money Advice and Budgeting Service (SM MABS)**, is one of eight regional MABS companies and covers the counties of Cork & Kerry.

SM MABS are currently seeking Directors for their voluntary Board with expertise in **Finance/accounting, Legal and Human Resources**.

We are keen to ensure a gender balance in our Board and would encourage women with the above expertise to apply.

We also wish to reflect the cultural mix in modern Ireland and seek representatives from minority communities.

Board meetings are held on a Hybrid basis and Board members can attend in person at the Cork MABS office or online. There will be approximately 8 meetings per annum, plus attendance at sub-committee meetings, as required.

Together with preparatory reading for meetings and follow up activities and information analysis, the total commitment could be up to 6 hours per month.

If you have relevant experience and want to find out more about this opportunity, please contact Mairéad Link - southmunster@mabs.ie

<https://www.boardmatch.ie/board-vacancy/board-members-33>



Public Participation Network Cork County

**THE
MUSIC FORGE**
Friday Sessions

New Group Traditional Music Sessions!

STARTING
FRIDAY
17 APRIL

TIME: 4:00PM – 6:00PM

ADMISSION: €2

at Brú na Sí

- Learn a New Tune Each Week
- Rehearse Performance Sets
- Access Online Resources for Home Practice

🎵 Music Forge – Seisiúin Dé hAoine 🎵

Just a quick note to share how things are shaping up with Brú na Sí's new Friday Sessions—and to say thanks to everyone involved.

We had a great start with the launch of CasCeol.ie, which went down really well with the younger group. Huge thanks to Caoimhe for helping bring that to life. This indicates clear potential for digital supports to enhance engagement and learning pathways.



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Buíochas speisialta le Micheál Ó hAmháin agus Ealaíon na Gaeltachta as CasCeol a chur ar fáil don phobal.

Thanks as well to Jene for her support with the guitar group and for getting the ukulele section up and running—it's a lovely addition and brings a great energy to the session.

It's early days yet, but it was a really enjoyable evening and a positive step forward. There's a strong sense that this can grow into something special, both musically and socially. Importantly, it demonstrates a viable foundation for strengthening both musical progression and community connectivity—key objectives within the Music Forge framework.

We'd really value your thoughts—what worked well, what could be improved, and any ideas you have. We'll be pulling everything together over the next while to help shape the next phase.

This new imaginative project at Brú na Sí fits well with the objectives of the new Comhaltas Prospectus while showing possibilities to also fit with County Council Tourism plans and with Town Centre Regeneration.

Thanks again for being part of it—this is how it builds !



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Powerscourt Working with Nature Awards now open for submission



The *Working with Nature Awards* recognise individuals, community groups and organisations across Ireland who are actively protecting, restoring and reconnecting people with nature.

Now in its second year, the Awards celebrate impactful work across three categories:

1. Biodiversity & Rewilding,
2. Nature Media, and
3. Nature Education & Wellbeing.

Open to projects of all sizes, the Awards aim to highlight real, on-the-ground action while providing a platform to share stories that inspire wider change.

Nominations are now open until 25 May, with the Awards Ceremony taking place on 2 July at Powerscourt Estate.

More information and entry details:

www.powerscourt.com/workingwithnature



Public Participation Network Cork County

**POWER UP
YOUR MIND**

PUBLIC Workshop
Kindly Hosted by:
Youghal GAA

**Tues 28th April
7.30pm-9pm**

Location:
Club Árás, Youghal GAA Club
P36 TX68

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Admission FREE
Over 14's

**AN INSPIRATIONAL
EVENING AWAITS YOU!**

Resilience
NIALL MCCARTHY

Health Pillars
JEN O'CALLAGHAN NT

**Stress
Management**
DR ANT KIERNAN

GAA **hi** **Comhairle Contae Chorcaí** **LCDC**
Healthy Ireland Cork County Council Cork County Local Community Development Commission

Power Up Your Mind – Public Event – Hosted by Youghal GAA Club

Join Healthy Ireland for an uplifting evening dedicated to nurturing mental well-being. Open to everyone aged 14 and over, this event features a panel of insightful speakers who will explore the foundations of positive mental health. Topics include building resilience, the impact of nutrition on mental strength, and strategies for navigating life's challenges.

Venue: Club Árás, Youghal GAA Club. Eircode: P36TX68

Date & Time: Tuesday 28th April | 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Age Group: Open to ages 14+

Reserve a spot : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1987047824533?aff=oddtcreator>



Public Participation Network Cork County

Welcome aboard New Groups!

Castlemagner Residents Association

Mallow United AFC

Ballymartle Woods – Riverstick Walkway Committee

Ballydehob Community Association CLG



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Get involved!

Secretariat Vacancies:

Cork County PPN has a number of vacancies available, some on the various Committees within the County Council - the SPCs and LDCDs, but at the moment we also have a number of positions we are looking to fill on our Secretariat - the incredibly important group that keeps the PPN show on the road !

The Cork County PPN Secretariat provides a coordinating and oversight function for the PPN. Its role is to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the PPN
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Coordinate the activities of the PPN Communicate extensively and regularly with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities as widely as possible
- Manage and support PPN staff The Secretariat is made up of two representatives from each of the Cork County Municipal Districts i.e. Carrigaline, Macroom, Cobh, East Cork, Bandon-Kinsale, Fermoy, Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork, as well as, two representatives from each of the PPN colleges i.e. Community & Voluntary College, Social Inclusion College and Environmental College.

Commitment Involved:

The Secretariat role is voluntary and requires approximately two hours per month to attend meetings, which generally take place at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person and online formats. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are reimbursed. Additional involvement may be required from time to time, such as participation in sub-groups or events.

This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our communities. Secretariat members receive access to training and national events, develop key skills, and play a crucial role in shaping supports for community groups, particularly those representing marginalised voices.

Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website [Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN](#)

- or reach out to PPN@corkcoco.ie and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



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Current Vacancies:

2 x Vacant seats – Carrigaline Municipal District

Vacant seat – East Cork Municipal District

Vacant seat – Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District

Vacant seat – Macroom Munciple District

2 x Vacant seats – Environmental Electoral College

[Cork-County-Secretariat-Nomination-form](#)

Further vacancies:

SPC Vacancies:

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC: 2 seats vacant (any pillar)

Tourism SPC: 1 seat vacant (any pillar)

Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC: 2 seats vacant (any pillar)

Arts, Culture & Language SPC: 1 seat vacant (any pillar)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-SPC-Nomination form final](#)

LCDC Vacancies:

- **North Cork** (2 Social Inclusion vacancies)
- **South Cork** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)
- **West Cork** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-LCDC-Nomination-form](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

Join Our Linkage Groups!

Linkage Groups bring together stakeholder organisations and groups who are members of the PPN with a common interest to discuss their diverse views and interests in a specific policy area.

This is a pathway for such organisations and groups to have a real input into policy in their respective area of operation.

Linkage Groups are an essential component of the work of the PPN.

They are independent networks of community groups who are interested in a common theme such as Arts, Community, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Planning, Social Inclusion, Transport or Tourism (and more).

Linkage Groups work to influence change. They do this through advocating for policy changes on behalf of the community through PPN Reps engaging with Cork County Council and other bodies appropriate to the issue or subject matter of advocacy.

After our recent Plenary meeting, we are proposing four Linkage Groups:

1. Housing, Planning, Transport and Community Safety
2. Arts, Community, Heritage and Tourism
3. Climate Change, Water and Environment
4. Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth, Enterprise & Recreation

Please let us know if your group would like to join to any of these Linkage Groups, by emailing ppn@corkcoco.ie.

By making submissions to a Linkage Group, you can support our SPC and LCDC Reps and give them a mandate to bring to the Council.



Public Participation Network Cork County

#fundingfriday

The Lidl Green Fund Now Inviting Applications

Lidl's Ireland is giving away €100,000 in funding to community sustainability projects - APPLY NOW!

The Lidl Green Fund is designed to promote, support, and empower local sustainability community projects across Ireland to help communities actively champion sustainable living and protect the planet.

Who can apply?

Charities, primary and secondary schools, and community groups from every county can now apply for **Lidl's Green Fund** with top award of €25,000 up for grabs and a further €75,000 allocated to a number of smaller projects.

The application deadline is 18 May 2026.

We're looking for projects or initiatives across four key areas:

- **Climate:** Projects that support climate action, such as the installation of solar panels or LED lighting.
- **Biodiversity:** Initiatives focused on supporting nature such as creating a community garden, nature trail, or supporting native and pollinator-friendly planting.
- **Reducing Waste:** Identifying and implementing solutions for a circular economy, including waste programmes, repair cafes, or upcycling workshops.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Educating local communities to promote healthier diets and food choices through community cooking programmes or nutrition workshops.

To apply, please visit: lidl.ie/greenfund



Public Participation Network Cork County

2026 Community Safety Fund (CSF)

Please note that the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan has officially opened the nationwide call for applications to the **2026 Community Safety Fund (CSF)**,

The Community Safety Fund is an annual grant programme that reinvests the proceeds of crime, seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau and An Garda Síochána, back into communities. The fund supports innovative local initiatives that contribute to safer and stronger communities. Since its launch in 2022, the fund has supported 127 projects nationwide and is managed by the National Office for Community Safety.

Community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice are invited to apply. Applications may be submitted by individual organisations or consortia (minimum of two organisations), with the lead partner being a community-based, not-for-profit, social enterprise with a remit relevant to community safety and/or youth justice.. Innovative approaches will be given particular consideration. Grants range from **€20,000 to €150,000**.

Application forms, guidance documents, and details of previously funded projects are available at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-justice-home-affairs-and-migration/collections/community-safety-fund/>.

Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00pm on 18 May 2026 to: CommunitySafetyFund@justice.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County

€10 million Capital Scheme for Early Learning and Childcare Services

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality Norma Foley has announced the opening of a €10 million capital funding scheme to deliver a significant number of additional early learning and childcare places.

The Building Blocks Extension Scheme Phase 2 will provide grants for community and private early learning and childcare services who are Core Funding partner services to increase their capacity by means of extensions to their existing premises.

Community providers can apply for a capital grant of between €100,000 and €530,000 to extend their existing premises. Private providers can apply for a capital grant of between €50,000 and €265,000 to extend their existing premises.

All projects will be required to deliver net increases in full-time places for one to three-year-olds. Projects will also be required to incorporate Universal Design Guidelines.

There are two strands to the Scheme, as follows:

Community strand:

- Community providers can apply for a capital grant of between €100,000 (minimum) and €530,000 (maximum) to extend their existing premises.
- Match funding is not a requirement.
- Project values between €100,000 and €680,000 will be eligible.
- Any additional project costs between €530,000 and €680,000 must be funded by the provider.

The closing date for applications is 31 July 2026. This will ensure that all applicants have sufficient time to engage with their design teams and their solicitors prior to the closing date. The outcome of the appraisal process will be communicated to services in September 2026.

[Full details here](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

2026 CLÁR Measure 1 Scheme Outline and Application Form

CLÁR 2026 has been launched by The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Dara Calleary TD. Please find the link to the Press Release: [Media Release: Minister Calleary launches CLÁR 2026 programme - Cork County PPN](#)

The Local Authority is responsible for the administration of **Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities** applications which will be accepted on a prioritised basis. The Measure 1 Scheme Outline, application form, and municipal offices contact details are available at [CLÁR \(Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais\) Scheme | Cork County Council](#).

Points to note

Complete project applications should be submitted to the relevant Municipal Districts Office.

Complete project applications must be submitted on or before Friday 29th May 2026. Incomplete applications should be avoided and will be returned.

After evaluation of the projects, the Community, Tourism & Rural Development directorate will submit the top 16 projects (2 of which must be Gaeltacht areas) for approval to the Department.

For your information, please find:

- **CLÁR County Map Cork** - <https://padlet.com/ppncorkcoco/cork-county-ppn-padlet-trroleenakwu6432/wish/E1P8aXpDJqrNawA9>
- **2026 CLÁR Measure 1 Scheme Outline**
- <https://padlet.com/ppncorkcoco/cork-county-ppn-padlet-trroleenakwu6432/wish/R7dXadNJ305mZ6bl>
- **2026 CLÁR Measure 1 Application Form**
- <https://padlet.com/ppncorkcoco/cork-county-ppn-padlet-trroleenakwu6432/wish/IDK1ZRLxnq5OaJ9z>



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Measure 2 and 3 Scheme Outlines seek applications directly to the Department to assist groups and community organisations. Please feel free to bring these Measures to the attention of all relevant groups and community organisations in your area. The scheme outlines and application forms are available at [CLÁR Measures](#)

For all queries on Measures 2 and 3, please contact CLAR@drcd.gov.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County

Consultations



Community Groups and Banking Survey

Susanne Rogers, Research & Policy Analyst with **Social Justice Ireland**, is currently circulating a short survey seeking input from small community groups on their experiences of opening bank accounts.

Social Justice Ireland works closely with PPNs and the Central Bank and has been engaging on issues arising for community groups, particularly barriers encountered when attempting to open bank accounts in order to apply for and receive small grants or funding. To support this work and provide evidence that can be raised with the Central Bank, Social Justice Ireland is seeking to gather experiences directly from community groups.

The survey is brief and is available at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVCFB9S>

Members are encouraged to participate and share any relevant experiences or suggestions, as this feedback will help inform policy engagement in this area.

Any queries can be directed to Susanne Rogers at Social Justice Ireland
- susanne.rogers@socialjustice.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County

Minister for Health launches Public Consultation on hearing care services



Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill has launched a [public consultation](#) on hearing care services in Ireland. This consultation is a crucial element of the work of the **National Hearing Care Plan Working Group**, which is tasked with developing a holistic model of hearing care in Ireland. The consultation is examining:

- The existing level of hearing care provision in Ireland.
- Workforce planning.
- The current education structures in place to ensure an adequate number of audiology graduates are available to enter the workforce.
- The appropriate level of regulation of the audiology profession.
- Improving referral pathways and the integration between acute and community care.
- The effective linkage between public and private care to improve patient outcomes, including reductions in waiting times.

This public consultation will provide an opportunity for the public to contribute their views on their awareness of, access to, and experience of hearing care services in Ireland.

The consultation also gives service providers an opportunity to express their views on key areas of focus for the Working Group.

The views and opinions collected will be considered and used to inform the development of the National Hearing Care Plan.



Public Participation Network Cork County

Minister Carroll MacNeill said:

“There is increasing demand on public audiology services, and this has led to substantial growth in patient waiting times. Reducing waiting list times across a range of acute and community healthcare services remains a priority for this Government.

“The Hearing Care Plan Working Group has been tasked with developing recommendations for a holistic model of care for the diagnosis and treatment of hearing difficulties in the Irish population.

“This public consultation is a great opportunity for the public to help shape the future of hearing care in Ireland and I would encourage everyone to participate and make their views known.”

The consultation will be open for four weeks – the closing date is **Friday 15 May 2026**.

You can access the public consultation [here](#).



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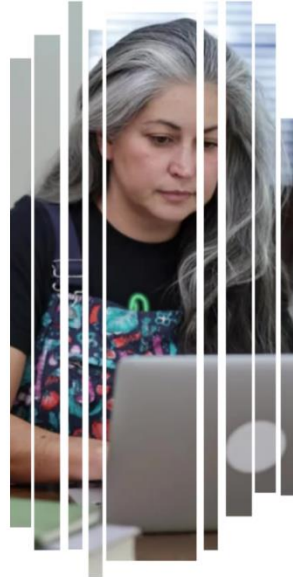
the wheel! Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.

SECTOR TRAINING & SKILLS SURVEY

 **closing
5 May**



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



The Wheel has launched a national survey to find out about skills and training needs among the 281,000-strong community and voluntary sector workforce.

If you're a worker or a decision-maker in the sector, please take a short break and help to demonstrate what skills and training can do to support you and your organisation. Take the survey today.

As a token of appreciation, The Wheel will be giving away three free places on half-day workshops. To be in with a chance of winning one of these places, please complete the survey and submit your email address by 5pm on Tuesday, 05 May 2026.

If you are ready, start the survey here! [The Wheel's Sector Training and Skills Survey: 2026](#)